GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4013
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Private Investment in Coal Sector
Sahu Shri Lakhan Lal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the ranking of India in the world in terms of coal production;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to promote private investment in the coal sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to stop the import of coal in the country: and
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR COAL, POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): As per International Energy Agency (IEA), India is the third largest coal producer in the world.

(b)&(c): Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act. 2015, 30 coal mines have been allocated till date by way of auction to the private sector companies for specified end uses. Further, the methodology for auction of coal blocks to private companies for commercial mining has not been finalized.
(d)&(e): As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. However, Coal imports have fallen from 217.78 Mte in 2014-15 to 203.95 Mte. in 2015-16 and further to 190.95 Mte. in 2016-17. The trend of fall in import of coal has continued in 2017-18. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), during April-June 2017-18, 52.74 Mte. (Provisional) of coal was imported as compared to 57.38 Mte. in the corresponding period of 2016-17 showing a decline of 8.1%. The fall in imports is largely on account of enhanced production by CIL, due to which the country has moved from a regime of coal scarcity to a coal surplus situation. The vendible stock of CIL has increased form 53.62 Mt. as on 01.04.2015 to 61.92 Mt. as on 01.04.2017. The off-take / dispatch of coal of CIL has also increased from 488.86 Mt in 2014-15 to 542.82 Mt. in 2016-17. The vendible stock of CIL even on 01.07.2017 was 49.90 Mt. However, the gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.
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